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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Previously Presented)** An oral composition for alveolar bone resorption inhibition and periodontal membrane loss inhibition, comprising a soy isoflavone aglycone, calcium, and vitamin D₃.
2. **(Previously Presented)** An agent for preventing or treating gingival recession, comprising a soy isoflavone aglycone, calcium, and vitamin D₃.
3. **(Previously Presented)** An agent for preventing or treating alveolar bone resorption and periodontal membrane loss, comprising a soy isoflavone aglycone, calcium, and vitamin D₃.
4. **(Currently Amended)** A composition or agent according to Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the proportion of soy isoflavone aglycone in the composition or agent is 0.001% to 10% by weight; and the proportion of calcium in the composition or agent is 0.01% to 50% by weight.
5. **(Currently Amended)** A composition or agent according to Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the composition or agent is for persons having decreased bone density, postmenopausal women, or periodontal disease patients in a maintenance phase.
6. **(Previously Presented)** A composition according to claim 1, wherein the soy isoflavone aglycone is an extract from whole-grain soy; the genistein/daidzein weight ratio in the soy isoflavone aglycone is in the range of 1/1 to 1.5/1; and the proportion of the total weight of genistein and daidzein in the soy isoflavone aglycone is at least 90%.
7. **(Currently Amended)** A method for inhibiting alveolar bone resorption and periodontal membrane loss, comprising orally administering a composition according to Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~.
8. **(Previously Presented)** A method for preventing or treating gingival recession, comprising orally administering a soy isoflavone aglycone, calcium, and vitamin D₃.
9. **(Previously Presented)** A method for preventing or treating alveolar bone resorption and periodontal membrane loss, comprising orally administering a soy isoflavone aglycone, calcium, and vitamin D₃.

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10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the soy isoflavone aglycone, calcium, and vitamin D₃ are administered to persons having decreased bone density, postmenopausal women, or periodontal disease patients in a maintenance phase.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the soy isoflavone aglycone is administered in an amount of 10 mg to 40 mg per day; and calcium is administered in an amount of 500 mg to 2000 mg per day.

Please add claims 12-16 as follows:

12. (New) A composition or agent according to claim 3, wherein the proportion of soy isoflavone aglycone in the composition or agent is 0.001% to 10% by weight; and the proportion of calcium in the composition or agent is 0.01% to 50% by weight.

13. (New) A composition or agent according to claim 3, wherein the composition or agent is for persons having decreased bone density, postmenopausal women, or periodontal disease patients in a maintenance phase.

14. (New) A method for inhibiting alveolar bone resorption and periodontal membrane loss, comprising orally administering a composition according to claim 6.

15. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the soy isoflavone aglycone, calcium, and vitamin D₃ are administered to persons having decreased bone density, postmenopausal women, or periodontal disease patients in a maintenance phase.

16. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein the soy isoflavone aglycone is administered in an amount of 10 mg to 40 mg per day; and calcium is administered in an amount of 500 mg to 2000 mg per day.